Understanding and Recognizing Human Trafficking

October 26, 2015
The Salvation Army Western Division
Dr. Linda Burkle

Photo: By Pascal Blancon, PRISM, September-October, 2007.
What Human Trafficking?
Definition

Trafficking in Persons

ACTS
(What?)

MEANS
(How?)

PURPOSE
(Why?)
Acts

- Recruitment
- Harboring
- Transportation
- Provisioning
- Obtaining
Means

**FORCE**
- Power
- Violence
- Constraint used against a person

**FRAUD**
An act of deception with criminal intent

**COERCION**
Threats of harm against any person; any scheme or plan intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform would result in serious harm to another person
For the Purpose of:

- Commercial Sex Acts
- Involuntary Servitude
- Peonage
- Debt Bondage
- Slavery
Two Broad Categories of Human Trafficking

**Labor Trafficking:**
- Domestic Service
- Sweat Shops/Factories
- Begging
- Agricultural Work
- Mining
- Brick Kilns
- Military Conscription
- Gang activity

**Sexual Trafficking:**
- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Lap Dancing
- Live-Sex Shows
- Mail-order Brides
- Child Brides

*(Sex is Not Labor/Work!)*
Scope of the Problem
Scope of the Problem

- In the past 30 years, more people have been trafficked for slavery than in all of the 400 years of Colonel Slave Trade.
- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center estimates it’s a $32 billion industry, with half coming from industrialized countries.

(* United Nations/US. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, 2011)
Scope of the Problem

- According to the International Labor Organization there are 12.3 million people in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude at any given time; other estimates range from 4 to 27 million.*

- 500,000 women from all over the world are trafficked each year into Western Europe alone.**

- In the past year, 44,000 survivors who have been identified, but more than 20 million victims of trafficking have not.*

- One million children enter the sex trade each year.**

Trans-border Trafficking

800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders annually, 80% are women and 50% are children.*

International Trafficking to the U.S.

14,500 - 17,500 persons are trafficked into the U.S. annually*

100,000 – 150,000 victims are in the U.S.

Domestic/Citizen Trafficking

200,000 to 300,000 U.S. children are at risk of intra-country trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.*

- 14,500-17,500: estimated number of people trafficked into the United States each year
- 50% of people trafficked into the U.S. each year are children
- 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year
- East Asia/Pacific is the region that is the largest source of people who are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice; Free the Slaves
Understanding Sex Trafficking

Seven important points:

1. Not all prostituting persons are sexually trafficked, but prostitution does harm to those in it, whether they are trafficked or not.

2. Pimps ARE sex traffickers.
3. Prostitution of persons under 18 is ipso facto sex trafficking.

4. The average age of entry into prostitution in the U.S. is 12.*

5. A high number of foreign women is prostitution is indicative of trafficking.

6. The vast majority of adult women in prostitution experience levels of physical and psychological coercion, physical abuse, and torture that plainly classify them as victims of sex trafficking.

Pimp quote: “Both my hands swelled up because I beat the bitch so much.”

Image: Toledo Blade (1/8/06).
According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking has become the fastest growing criminal industry — just behind drug trafficking — with children accounting for roughly half of all victims. Approximately half of the cases under investigation in the U.S. involve children. Once trafficked, a child’s life expectancy is 10 years.

(United States v. Cadena.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meatpacking industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influx of immigrants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By the Numbers: Victims Identified

• 2012: 325 sex, 18 potential labor
• 2013: 408 sex, 23 labor
• 2014: 495 sex, 11 potential labor

NOTE: these numbers include some “carry over cases”

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation
Nebraska Trafficking Cases

- Rural areas and urban
  - Omaha
  - Auburn
  - Columbus
  - Indian Reservations
  - Major trafficking corridor connecting Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Des Moines, Kansas City
Sex Trafficking in Nebraska
Omaha, Nebraska & Council Bluffs, Iowa

Beatings, threats kept women as prostitutes

Members of an Omaha sex trafficking ring will be sentenced this week.

**By Jason Kuper**
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Young women held captive and forced to perform sex acts.

Three of the ring’s main players will be sentenced this week in federal court in Council Bluffs: Meredith Crane-Horton, 32; her husband, Edwin “Nate” Horton, 35; and Katherine M. Heredia, 23. Heredia’s husband, Ramon D. Heredia, 21, will be sentenced in April. The four pleaded guilty last fall to conspiring to commit or financially benefit from sex trafficking.

**Trafficking:** Women kept in line with beatings

Continued from Page 1

Crane-Horton is described in court records as the “mastermind.” Her husband handled the money, while Ramon Heredia, Horton’s nephew, provided the muscle. Katherine Heredia worked as a prostitute.

The Heredias lived in a 1½-story home near 30th and Poppleton Avenues in Omaha. At some point in 2007, the Heredias moved into the house, and the four shared 1,300 square feet and living expenses.

Katherine Heredia told authorities she would sometimes work as a prostitute so she and her husband could make rent. She and two other prostitutes provided authorities with details on the inner workings of the ring and helped prosecutors build their case.

Council Bluffs police and FBI agents learned of the operation in January 2010, when they responded to an ad on Craigslist as part of a prostitution sting.

A then-13-year-old La Vista woman met an undercover police officer in a Council Bluffs apartment.

While she negotiated a $160 sex act inside the apartment, Crane-Horton and Ramon Heredia waited outside in a car — with the young prostitute’s 9-week-old daughter.

When authorities arrested Crane-Horton and Ramon Heredia, they found a GPS device in the vehicle. The device was used to locate the ring’s “johns,” or clients, according to court documents.

Anna Brewer, head of the local Innocence Lost task force, said in court testimony that the sex ring existed because of Crane-Horton.

“People told me over and over again that she was the mastermind ... she was the one that came up with this whole business,” Brewer said.

It was a brutal business.

A 15-year-old Bellevue girl described meeting Ramon Heredia through friends at her high school.

The ring’s leaders gave the teen a place to stay, an FBI special agent testified, but told her that she couldn’t leave the house unaccompanied. She didn’t obey, she was warned, she would be reported to police.

During a two-day period, the FBI agent testified, the girl was forced to perform at least one three sex acts for pay, with all the money going to the ring’s leaders.

She finally escaped with a 13-year-old girl. The two stole a car.

The ring’s operators sometimes kept order by beating women in front of other women, according to court documents.

The 15-year-old Bellevue runaway witnessed one of the beatings. She was warned that the same thing would happen to her if she didn’t perform sex acts.

Katherine Heredia told authorities she was battered in front of two prostitutes to “keep them in line.”

A local expert on human trafficking said it’s not uncommon for a victim like Katherine Heredia to become a co-conspirator.

“It is very similar to a domestic violence situation,” said Linda Burke, director of the Omaha Salvation Army’s social services division. “It is somewhat like Stockholm syndrome. After a period of brainwashing and breaking,” you co-opt with your abuser ... and bring into the fold younger people. It is a distorted idea of love.”

Burke, a mental health practitioner, said runaways are particularly susceptible to sex traffickers. They need food and a place to sleep, and they are vulnerable to what some call “survivor sex.”

One woman, now 20, told authorities that Crane-Horton and Ramon Heredia beat her to coerce her into prostitution and to keep her from talking to police.

The woman said Crane-Horton would lock her inside a room without heat or lights to compel her to perform sex acts.

Katherine Heredia said in July 2009, when she was seven months pregnant, Crane-Horton pulled out a kitchen knife and threatened to cut out her unborn baby.

Another time, when Katherine Heredia was in jail in Council Bluffs, Edwin Horton called and threatened her. He warned that if she testified against his wife, the “family” would be upset.

Horton was the last to be indicted. According to court documents, neighbors came forward with more information after his wife and the Heredias were arrested. The neighbors told authorities they felt safer and were able to finally talk.

After the indictments, authorities continued to be on the lookout for some of the ring’s “johns.”

Two men — John Haas, 38, of Papillion and Edward E. Kosaki, 45, of Omaha — have been ordered to stand trial on charges of first-degree sexual assault of a child. Each is accused of having sex with the 15-year-old Bellevue runaway.

Haas’ attorney could not be reached. Kosaki, co-owner and promoter of Nebraska Raceway Park outside Greenwood, has denied the charges.

If convicted, the two could be sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.
The I-80 and I-29 Corridors: Sex Trafficking at Truck Stops

Sex trafficking occurs at truck stops in the United States often in two forms, through pimp controlled prostitution and through massage parlors.

Vulnerabilities

• Transient nature of truckers & traffickers
• Truck stops attract runaways and throwaways
Unique characteristics of truck stop trafficking

Advertising - Sex trafficking at truck stops has its own slang and unique means of communication (code words, such as “lot lizards”). CB radios using code, johns search online trucker boards for information about where to purchase prostitution, johns signal that they want commercial sex using their headlights or stickers on their windows. Massage parlors at or near truck stops are commonly advertised on billboards or on signs at or near the truck stop.

- Perpetration of related crimes, such as theft
- Transportation across state lines
- Regional Scope across interstate transportation systems.
Addressing the issue

*Truckers Against Human Trafficking* (nonprofit 501(c)3)

Prevention and intervention:
- Wallet cards, flyers in restrooms with the Hotline number, lip balm, etc.
- Awareness Campaigns and display boards
- Peer patrol (truckers reporting)
The Salvation Army National Plan

Above: TWC, July 15, 1885. Right: TWC, Aug. 12, 1885.
Hotlines

Report trafficking crimes or get help by calling the toll-free hotlines:

DOJ: 1-888-428-7581 (voice and TTY).
HHS: 1-888-373-7888
For Additional Information

- http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking
- http://www.iast.net/
- http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/hughes.htm
- http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/
- http://www.state.gov/g/tip/
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/